

## Appendix C

### Hand-Washing Recommendations to Reduce Disease Transmission from Animals in Public Settings

Hand washing is the most important prevention step for reducing disease transmission associated with animals in public settings. Hands should always be washed immediately when exiting animal areas, after removing soiled clothing or shoes, and before eating or drinking. Venue staff members should encourage hand washing as persons exit animal areas.

#### How to Wash Hands

- Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold) and apply soap; rub your hands together to make a lather and scrub them well (be sure to scrub the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails); continue rubbing your hands for at least 20 seconds; rinse your hands well under running water.
- If possible, turn off the faucet using a disposable paper towel.
- Dry your hands using a clean disposable paper towel or air dry them. Do not dry hands on clothing.
- Assist young children with washing their hands.

#### Hand-Washing Facilities or Stations

- Hand-washing facilities or stations should be accessible, sufficient for the maximum anticipated attendance, and accessible by children (i.e., low enough for children to reach or equipped with a stool), adults, and persons with disabilities.
- Hand-washing facilities should be conveniently located in transition areas between animal and nonanimal areas and in the nonanimal food concession areas.
- Maintenance of hand-washing facilities and stations should include routine cleaning and restocking to ensure an adequate supply of paper towels and soap.
- Running water should be of sufficient volume and pressure to remove soil from hands. Volume and pressure might be substantially reduced if the water supply is furnished from a holding tank; therefore, a permanent pressurized water supply is preferable.
- Hand-washing stations should be designed so that both hands are free for hand washing by having operation with a foot pedal or water that stays on after hand faucets are turned on.
- Liquid soap dispensed by a hand or foot pump is recommended.
- Hot water is preferable, but if the hand-washing facilities or stations are supplied with only cold water, a soap that emulsifies easily in cold water should be provided.
- Communal basins, in which water is used by more than one person, are not adequate hand-washing facilities.

#### Hand-Sanitizing Agents

- Washing hands with soap and water is the best way to reduce the number of germs on them.
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Visible contamination and dirt should be removed before using hand sanitizers. Hand sanitizers are not effective when hands are visibly dirty.
- Even when hand sanitizer is used, visitors should always wash hands with soap and water as soon as possible after being in animal areas.
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizers can quickly reduce the number of germs on hands in some situations, but sanitizers do not eliminate all types of germs.

#### How to Use Hand Sanitizers

- Apply the product to the palm of one hand.
- Rub your hands together.
- Rub the product over all surfaces of your hands and fingers until your hands are dry.

#### Hand-Washing Signs

- At venues where human-animal contact occurs, signs regarding proper hand-washing practices are critical to reduce disease transmission.
- Signs that remind visitors to wash hands should be posted at exits from animal areas (i.e., exit transition areas) and in nonanimal areas where food is served and consumed (Figure).
- Signs should be posted that direct all visitors to hand-washing stations when exiting animal areas.
- Signs with proper hand-washing instructions should be posted at hand-washing stations and restrooms to encourage proper practices.
- If appropriate for the setting, hand-washing signs should be available in different languages.

# Wash Hands When Leaving Animal Exhibits






## WHO



Everyone, especially young children, older individuals, and people with weakened immune systems







## WHEN

### Always Wash Hands:

-  After touching animals or their living area
-  After leaving the animal area
-  After taking off dirty clothes or shoes
-  After going to the bathroom
-  Before preparing foods, eating, or drinking



## HOW

-  Wet your hands with clean, running water
-  Apply soap
-  Rub hands together to make a lather and scrub well, including backs of hands, between fingers, and under fingernails
-  Rub hands at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice
-  Rinse hands
-  Dry hands using a clean paper towel or air dry them. Do not dry hands on clothing



For more information, visit CDC's Healthy Pets, Healthy People website ([www.cdc.gov/healthypets](http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets)) and CDC's Handwashing website ([www.cdc.gov/handwashing](http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing)).

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